

ACDC



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YEARS ANNIVERSARY



Silent Retreat


Offer yourself open space

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Ruth Campbell



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ASBURY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

the ASBURIAN

Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church
 VOLUME 104 · ISSUE 53 · APRIL 2024



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OFFICERS OF OUR CHURCH

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 - TBD**, *Leadership Team Vice-Chair*
 - Sharon Dashiell**, *Staff-Parish Relations Chair*
 - TBD**, *Staff-Parish Relations Vice-Chair*
 - Pawel Szczurko**, *Board of Trustees Chair*
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 - George Whitehead**, *Lay Leader*
 - Star Weaver**, *UWIF President*
 - Lori Conaway**, *UWIF Vice-President*
 - Dale Cropper**, *ASP BOD*
- Editor: *Lydia Childs*

From the desk of **PASTOR TOM PASMORE**

This morning as I was looking for something on my bookshelves when I happened upon a devotional guide that one of my previous congregation had written for Lent several years ago. The daily devotion, written by a layperson, speaks to the possibilities available to us through resurrection. It opened my eyes to what might have been and can still happen today. This devotion was written for Holy Saturday, the day between the two great events of crucifixion and resurrection. It is the day where it seems that death has won. But we know the truth, don't we? Death can never win . . .

Upon seeing that Jesus was sentenced to death Judas was filled with remorse for having betrayed Jesus. He returned the money the priests had given him in payment for turning against Jesus (30 silver shekels – an amount equal to about \$16,000); and then he took his own life. One of our previous pastors mentioned this story to me several years ago when we were talking about Easter. Judas was filled with remorse and could see no other way to atone for his own sin but to take his life. He saw no hope, only despair.

If only Judas had waited twenty-four hours—that twenty-four hours would have changed everything. Had he waited, he would have learned that the tomb was empty. Had he waited he would have learned that Jesus was appearing to the disciples. Had he waited, he could have fallen at Jesus feet and asked for mercy, and received it. Can you imagine Jesus holding Judas in his arms and saying, “I understand Judas; and what you intended for evil, God has used for good. I forgive you, Judas, now go and feed my sheep.” Can you imagine the impact Judas would have had for Christ and the kingdom of God; had he just waited for twenty-four hours?

Twenty-four hours could have changed the world, but God still made a way where there seemed to be no way. Jesus is alive!! We never have to worry about the “what ifs” again. Resurrection means we can do anything through the power of the Spirit and that we never have to fear when we step out in faith. Even if things look bleak and death does occur, God is just waiting to bring forth new life. Rejoice in the new life that you are experiencing this day, and celebrate with Jesus who is dancing on his own grave.

Blessings and Peace to you all,

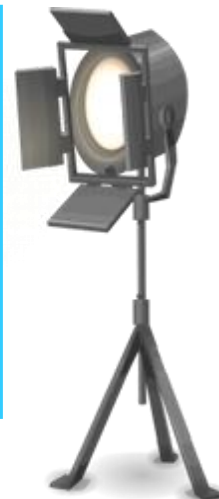
Pastor Tom



STAFF SPOTLIGHT - PASTOR TOM PASMORE

This month's Staff Spotlight falls on Pastor Tom Pasmore who wanted to share with you all his call into pastoral ministry.

It all began with my participation in a Walk to Emmaus retreat in the April of 2003. As my faith deepened after that retreat, I started trying to discern what God really wanted me to do with my life. I knew that working as a technical manager for DuPont was not God's answer to the questions that I had been asking myself. Although I was successful by the world's standards, I felt that my gifts were being wasted on developing technology instead of making disciples. In my heart I knew something had to change but I was afraid of what that might be.



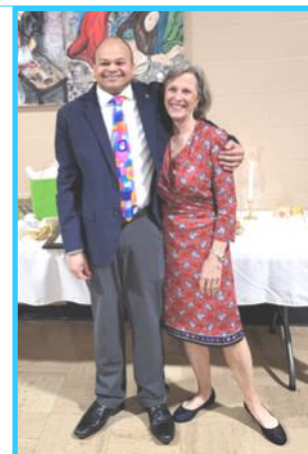
In September of 2003 I received an answer to my prayers. The church had a covered dish supper where we ended up sitting next to Pastor Steve Ackerman. We enjoyed a pleasant meal together and shared some interesting conversation. At the end of the meal I felt led to ask Steve a question. I'm sure this was the prompting of the Holy Spirit. I simply turned to Steve and asked him how he knew when he was being called into pastoral ministry. Well, a big grin spread across his face and as he was about to answer me, he was called away without saying a word. By the time I was able to ask again, after cleanup was complete, all he would say is I do not have an answer yet. Fortunately, I was able to ask Steve the same question later in the week, and after getting the same grin he had acquired at the dinner, he answered, cryptically, "You'll know when you know." Well, I began to pray with greater intensity and purpose, asking God to reveal God's plan for my life.

After some time of praying and waiting, Pastor Woody Wilson gave Sarah a copy of the book *The Christian as Minister* to give to me. He said that he had been praying about it and thought that the Holy Spirit was telling him it was the right time for me to read that particular book. It was. I started reading it a few days later and then discussed with Sarah what I was feeling and where I thought I was being led. It became obvious very quickly that I was being called into pastoral ministry. So, in March 2004 I sat down with Pastor Steve again, and said to him, "I know." That's when the process started. Even now 20 years and 4 churches later, I still "know."

FROM THE STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (SPRC)



At the end of January we celebrated the music ministry of Dr. Michael Stefanek who has left Asbury to pursue a new adventure with Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian Church in Baltimore. The time together was wonderful and we are grateful for what God has done through Michael here at Asbury.



FINANCE

Janice Ilczuk, Director of Finance and Building



Easter Offering

*When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.” **John 21:15-17***

While the rest of the world looks at Easter as spring’s arrival, complete with bunnies, lambs, and baskets of candy, Christians look to a different kind of arrival and a different kind of Lamb. On Resurrection Sunday, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, and His glorious entrance into heaven. This is the day of the prophecy fulfilled, a day of freedom, forgiveness, hope, and a day of triumphant joy.

Because we follow Him, we can capture that same triumphant joy of Easter in many ways throughout our everyday lives: prayer, fellowship, ministry, and giving.

In the passage, Jesus teaches Peter that if we’re going to follow Him, we need to do what He would do, which includes tending to His sheep. In other words, it’s our job to minister to and to feed the world so that others may know about this Jesus who we celebrate on Easter Sunday.

We would like to challenge you to live out the words Jesus spoke to Peter by being generous in your Easter giving: taking care of the flock for the Lamb Himself.

There are Easter offering envelopes in the pews and in the backs of the chairs in Fellowship Hall for this specific giving. You can also mail your Easter Offering, give online, or drop off in the church office- just please make sure to note on your giving that it is for Easter. Last year, as a congregation we received \$4,400 –let’s see if we can match and/or exceed that number. Thank you for giving!

Update on Giving for Lent

We are excited to report through your financial giving we have received \$1,645- thank you! We pray during the season of Lent that you have experienced other ways to share your time, talent and resources.

Income & Expenses	Jan - Feb 2024 Actual	Jan - Feb 2024 Budget
Pledge Contributions	\$115,206	\$125,000
Plate Contributions	\$7,011	\$8,000
Special Contributions	\$1,550	\$600
Endowment	\$24,191	\$24,200
Rentals	\$15,397	\$15,200
Interest-checking/mma/cd	\$623	\$640
Gain/loss on stock	\$0	\$0
Total Income	\$163,978	\$173,640
Property Expenses	\$25,391	\$26,146
Ministry Expenses	\$47,058	\$48,825
Administrative Expenses	\$23,432	\$24,343
Apportionments	\$22,879	\$22,879
Employee Benefits	\$22,959	\$23,505
Total Expenses	\$141,719	\$145,698
Net	\$22,260	\$27,942

Through February, we have held expenses under budget and are still operating with a small surplus.

ASBURY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Casey Taylor, *Director of ACDC*



ACDC students are excited that the weather is warming up so they can get outside and enjoy some fresh air. Our St. Patrick's Day celebrations included 3's, 4's and Kindergarten students going on a hunt to find treasure that was left at the end of the rainbow. Upon the students return to the classroom they discovered how messy leprechauns can be. Those sneaky little leprechauns can really make a mess!

We are taking registrations for the 2024-2025 school year. We have a few openings in our T/TH 2's class. Please call our office for more information or to schedule a tour 410.742.7058 or email our Director, Casey Taylor, at casey@asburyweb.org. We thank you in advance and appreciate your spreading the word about our wonderful little preschool and all of the authentic activities and unique events we have here at ACDC.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for ACDC 60th Anniversary Celebration. This event will be held on May 5th from 12:00pm -2:00pm on the playground. Hope to see everyone on May 5th.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Heather Harman, *Director of Children and Care Ministries*

VBS Decorating Coordinator Needed!

One of the most delightful parts of Vacation Bible School is watching the kids' faces light up as they enter Fellowship Hall and are immediately transported into the theme. This year's theme is 'Camp Firelight-A Summer Camp Adventure with God'. Do you have an eye for creating exciting spaces? Then we would love your help transforming Fellowship Hall and the hallways into a woodland adventure! Contact Heather at Heather@asburyweb.org, 410-749-2131, or in person if you'd like to find out more!



Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 14-17, 2024!

What's happening in Kids' Sunday School in April/May?

April 7: Regular Sunday School

April 14: Pancake Breakfast

April 21: Regular Sunday School

April 28: Family Sunday School—Helping with the Pollinator Gardens!

May 5: Last Day of Sunday School—ASP Assembly!



***Don't forget to send in those weekly offerings for the ASP challenge!**

YOUTH MINISTRY

Brooke Christensen, *Director of Youth & Family Ministries*



Youth Group

In March we had 23 youth come out and compete in our Olympic Games! We held events ranging from swimming to track and field, to target shooting, volleyball and hockey! Our next youth group meeting will be Friday, April 5 at Altitude Trampoline Park.

Family Sunday School

Heather and I experimented with a new initiative this year, once a month we invite families to experience Sunday School together as Family Sunday School.

In February we set up six Lent Prayer Stations in the Sunday School wing. Each room was a different part of the Lent season with an activity to complete. In the Ash Wednesday room there was an “Alleluia” to color and they got a box in which to “bury the Alleluia.” In the Palm Sunday room groups cut out palm leaves and placed them on a road for Jesus. In the Easter room we had scrabble tiles out for everyone to create “Easter words” as we are “Easter people.”

From those activities Heather and I created a couple art pieces that are on display in the Sunday School hallway, we would love for you to check them out!



A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM BROOKE

By the time you read your Asburian you may have already heard that I have resigned from my positions both at Asbury and the Wesley Foundation. I have accepted a new role as Administrator, Membership Development Programs at the American College of Physicians. I am so excited to start this new chapter but I will miss having an active role in the life of this community. We have navigated the late stages of COVID together and had the chance to experiment with all sorts of new ways to do ministry. Thank you for your support and friendship throughout my life but particularly these last three and a half years. I will still be a member at Asbury but I will be taking a break. Asbury is in a season of change and transition which can be hard but it can also be an exciting move in a direction that you had no idea you needed. I look forward to seeing Asbury continue to grow and thrive.

ASBURY SPECIAL PROJECT

Dale Cropper, ASP BOD

The Asbury Service Project team has had a busy spring so far!

Our ASP Local team built a ramp in Fruitland in early March for Kim, a 39-year-old who recently had her leg amputated below the knee. This project consisted of a 5'x10' platform and 29' of ramp. After just under 8 hours of work, and with the last 2 hours in the pouring rain, the ramp was complete!



As some of you recall, the Asbury Service Project ministry acquired our own tool trailer in 2022. For several years we felt the calling to do more locally and not necessarily just wheel chair ramps. However, one challenge was that we didn't have our own trailer outfitted to do the work. That meant we each had to load up our tools or we had to borrow a trailer from Chesapeake Housing Mission (CHM). There have also been numerous occasions where CHM is approached by a potential client for a ramp but then the client doesn't qualify. Frequently these clients can afford the materials but not the labor for a ramp. That's when the Asbury ASP Local team might get the call. CHM will still handle the design, permits, and ordering of supplies and the Asbury team provides the free labor! It's a win-win!



Back during our board meeting in August 2022 we were notified that we had received a grant for several thousand dollars. However, this wasn't enough for a trailer and all of the tools. Then, at our September kickoff meeting in 2022, Asbury ASP was presented with a trailer, donated by Buchanan Subaru out of Pocomoke City and brought to us by Mike Madruga and Rob Creel of Buchanan's! *God is Good!* With this head start, and the generosity of DeWalt and Milwaukee tools our dream became a reality! By the spring of 2023 we were set with our very own trailer! One final step was to have our trailer decaled with our new Asbury Service Project logo!!!

The ASP team has continued the fundraising efforts and we only have 2 events left. Our last Pancake Breakfast of the season is on April 14 where we will also have a Silent Auction set up during the breakfast. Finally, our last fundraiser will be a Car Wash on May 19. It's hard to believe that we are less than 90 days away from our trip to Appalachia in June.

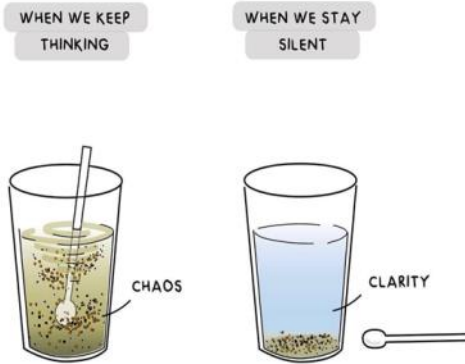
Blessings in Christ,

Dale Cropper



ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND MEMBERSHIP
Rev. Kristen Wall-Love, *Director of Spiritual Formation and Membership*

April's spiritual practice is "coffee with God" and it is exactly what it sounds like. Take some time during the day to enjoy a beverage of your choice and simply be with God for the time it takes you to finish your cup of joe (or tea or diet coke or whatever). This means just sitting--no reading, no screens, no music—just you, your beverage, and God. Be with God and your thoughts--they may turn into prayers, or not.



There is a lot going on right now at Asbury—much uncertainty and change. Be still and know that God is in it all. Be still and know that God is doing a new thing at Asbury!

Let me know if you want to participate by checking "monthly spiritual practice" on your connection card and I will check in with you during the month.



MEMBERSHIP EVENT!

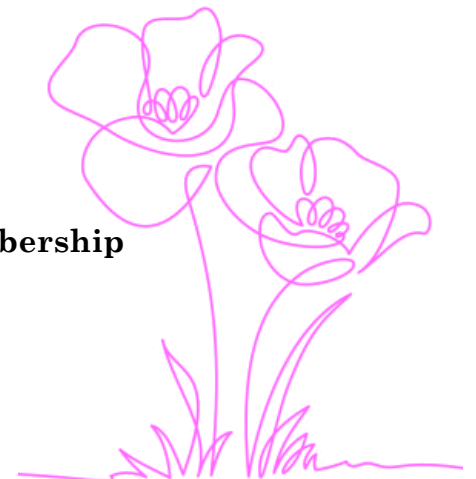
If you are considering membership or interested in formally joining Asbury UMC, please make plans to attend our spring membership event, happening Sunday April 21 at 12:30 in the Library. Anyone is welcome to attend. Please RSVP by April 7 to kristen@asburyweb.org or 410.749.2131.



On the journey with you,

Kristen Wall-Love

Director of Spiritual Formation & Membership
kristen@asburyweb.org





Guest Columnist Ruth Campbell shares about the spiritual practice of retreat. Many thanks, Ruth!

I am a talker! I am a retreator! I love attending women's retreats, marriage retreats (when I was married) and spiritual retreats of all kinds. I know what you are thinking: 'to be sequestered with a group of people for more than a day or so would just send me to the moon!' However, there is something magical, transformative and spiritually energizing about setting aside time in a safe space with a safe community.

No matter the type of retreat, (women, children, youth, or couples), I have found God grow stronger in me. The places I have attended retreats have been varied, all God's majestic creation and wonderful. I can find nature anywhere, but sitting on a porch rocking, with a cup of coffee sharing with another has been my greatest joy. Growing together in a workshop, celebrating worship, breaking bread together with people I know (and mostly those I don't know) widens my circle. I attended my first retreat in my thirties and I live for them now. I have grown in my understanding of God, humanity and myself. It doesn't really matter whether you spend a few hours, days or a week; I just think it is important to get out of the boat and take a chance on the transformative power of God.

My last retreat was this past February in Kentucky at the Abbey of Gethesemani with the Trappist Monks in silence. That experience at the monastery was amazing! Accompanied by my spiritual guru Kristen Wall-Love, I actually lived solitude and silence. Yes, I can do all things with God! Yes, I can be silent and quiet at home, but to gather with others who love God and desire to grow deeper in their relationship with God and one another—that is priceless. Do not be afraid, jump in the water, like Peter, and see where God takes you. Attend a retreat, dive deeper and watch how it changes you from the inside out. Blessings.

ASBURY'S

SILENT RETREAT

**SATURDAY APRIL 27
10-3 BEGIN IN THE MACKEY ROOM
BRING YOUR LUNCH**



RSVP to kristen@asburyweb.org

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2024

From
the
Inside
Out



Who: All Women!

When: Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-27

Where: Pecometh Riverview Retreat Center, Centreville, MD

Why: rest & renewal, time with God, spiritual growth, amazing food, deepening relationships, meaningful worship, great hotel-style accommodations, gorgeous setting, and fun!

Cost: 350.00 double occupancy, 525.00 single occupancy
no roommate? no problem, we can help!

Contact: kristen@asburyweb.org with questions. Feel free to drop form & payment in the offering plate. Make checks out to "Asbury UMC" with "Women's Retreat" in the memo or pay on asburyweb.org.



Name:



Contact info:



Dietary items:



Roommate:

CIRCLE NEWS



Deborah Circle: Maggie Fulkrod

We meet the last Tuesday of the month--this month April 30 at 6:30 in the library. Currently we are studying the book "Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools." All women are welcome.

Dorcas Circle: Susan Cropper

Dorcas Circle will meet Tuesday, April 9th at 10:00 am at Asbury in the Fox Room. We continue to discuss Joyce Meyer's book, 110 Ways to Simplify your life. Call Susan Cropper if you have questions: 410-845-8874.

Eve Circle: Amy Cropper

Eve meets at Lori Conaway's house on Wednesday, April 17th at 7:15 pm.

Joanna Circle: Carol Bisker

Joanna will meet on Monday, April 8th at 10 AM at the home of Carol Bisker. We will work on Mother's Day cards.

UWIF Winter Service Project

UWIF Board recently made **Birthday Boxes** for the children at Life Crisis. The purpose was to make sure that the children housed at Life Crisis had something special to help celebrate their birthdays.

We filled 20 decorative boxes (10 girl and 10 boy). Each box contained party plates and napkins, party favors, toys, books and little gifts.

It was a fun evening and uplifting knowing that the life crisis children will have something special to celebrate their birthday!



Emily Saulsbury, Chair

Marilyn Batie

Jean Laws

Brenda Martin

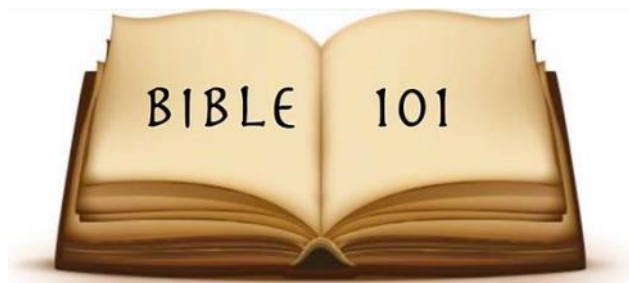
Lou Elin Sheller



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Bible 101 class is studying the First letter of the Apostle Paul to the Church in Corinth. He sets an example of how to share the Gospel with non-believers.

1. Put needs of others before yours.
2. One man sin is only pleasure for another man .
3. Work Hard!
4. Be all things to all people!



As class we are renewing our beliefs as Christians through the Apostles Creed .Come join us on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. for our lively discussions of the books of the **HOLY BIBLE!!**

2 0 2 4 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 



THURSDAY, MAY 2nd



12TH ANNUAL
Salisbury Area
Prayer Breakfast

Speaker:
Dr. Jerry Regier
Public Servant, Scholar and Christian Leader



Tickets \$20 per person
Table of 8 - \$160

Tickets available at The Country House
For information contact Ted Evans 410-430-4189
To order tickets by mail, send check payable to: Salisbury Prayer Breakfast Committee
PO Box 521, Salisbury, MD 21803



FILL OUR FAITH-BASED PARTNER'S FOOD PANTRY

Ashlee Plotts



James M. Bennett High School is seeking donations for their food pantry. The food pantry serves multiple students on a weekly basis and the school hosts monthly food distributions for students, their families, and our community.

The pantry is relying on community donations and support for the remainder of the school year as the Maryland Food Bank can no longer support the school. Please place items in the box in the Narthex labeled for JMB Food Bank. The collection will run from March 25th to April 15th.

The following list is of the most needed items:

- Pop-Tarts
- Individualized boxes of cereal
- Individualized snacks (fruit snacks, Cheez-Its, Goldfish, cookies, etc.)
- Granola Bars
- Juice Boxes
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Syrup
- Pancake Mix
- SpaghettiOs (*and other canned pasta*)
- Chef Boyardee
- Canned tuna fish
- Canned vegetables (*string beans, corn, peas, carrots, etc.*)
- Canned or individually packaged shelf-stable fruit



WESLEY FOUNDATION

In March we enjoyed trivia and dinner together at Roadie Joes. In April we are participating in Clued Up, a big scavenger hunt downtown on the 13th. On the 16th we will be preparing lunch for the Joseph House.

–Brooke

ASBURY NEWS

Greeting Coordinator Needed!

Are enthusiasm and organizing gifts of yours? We are looking for a person to coordinate the greeters for the Festive 11:00 am worship service so that all may be warmly and intentionally welcomed. Contact kristen@asburyweb.org if you are interested.

Opportunity Shop

Donations:

Monday 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Thursday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Or call the church for an appointment!

Sales:

Thursday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Looking for ways to help? We need volunteers to work as cashiers on Thursdays, and if you are cleaning out your closets, we need household items and clothing! All items need to be clean and functional. Tax receipts available.

Thank you for supporting this important ministry!

158 W. Market Street, Salisbury, MD

Check us out on Facebook.

Salisbury Urban Ministries Donation requests for April:

Lazarus Food Pantry

- Ramon noodles
- Vienna sausages

Kids Cafe

- Individual fruit cups (mandarin oranges, fruit cocktail, peaches)

Men's Welcome Center

- Corn Beef Hash
- Potted Meat
- Spam
- Vienna Sausages

SUM Information Center

SUM has now have its own information center, located at the Main Welcome Center by the Narthex. Flyers for monthly donation requests and other special project information can be found here.

Please drop off your donations in/near the large pots in sanctuary hallway. If you prefer to order online, have your donations delivered to: Salisbury Urban Ministries, 326 Barclay St., Salisbury, MD 21804. Or call 410-749-1563

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIALS

Fred Moultrie
Charles & Jenny Hastings

Jason Harman
Becker Morgan Group



MEETINGS SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Time	Meeting
3	Wed	6:00 p.m.	SPRC
9	Tue	5:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees
10	Wed	7:00 p.m.	Leadership Team
11	Thu	5:30 p.m.	Finance Committee
24	Wed	7:00 p.m.	UWIF
30	Tue	10:00 a.m.	Altar Guild



***Are you receiving a printed Asburian but would rather see it in color, on our website? Or would you rather not receive it? Please let us know. ***



Senior Pastor: *Rev. Dr. Tom Pasmore*
Administrative Office Manager: *Lydia Childs*
Administrative Assistant: *Sheri Burchard*
Director of Music Ministries: *TBA*
Director of Children and Care Ministries:
Heather Harman
Director of Finance and Building: *Janice Ilczuk*
Director of Adult Spiritual Formation and Membership: *Rev. Kristen Wall-Love*
Director of Youth & Family Ministries:
Brooke Christensen
Maintenance Worker: *Bob Love*
ACDC Director: *Casey Taylor*
ACDC Asst. Director: *Danna Abbott*



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